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MR. SPEAKER :—" I may straightaway tell the House that as far as the Chair is concerned, the Chair cannot take the responsibility for seeing that the question is answered. If the Member is not satisfied with the answer given, as I have been stating often in the last Assembly, he has his weapon in his own hands, i.e., during the Budget time."

House-rent allowance for the menial staff of Cannanore Municipality.

* 396 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have received any memorandum on 9th September 1952 from the Municipal Mazdoor Sabha, Cannanore, for the grant of house-rent allowance to the menial staff of the Cannanore municipality, and if so, what steps the Government have taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Yes. The Government did not comply with the request."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, in view of the fact that the Cannanore Municipal Council has already passed a resolution recommending the grant of house-rent allowance to the menial staff, and in view of the fact that the Government have allowed house-rent allowance to all municipal employees except the menial staff, and in view also of the fact that the Hon. Minister once said in the Assembly that he would consider this question if the Municipal Council passed a resolution to that effect and that Government would not stand in the way, will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to reconsider this question and grant house-rent allowance to the menial staff when the Municipal Council itself has recommended the same? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, the wages of the menials are regulated with reference to the prevailing local market rates. If the finances of the municipality are sound, the Government will consider the matter."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know whether the Government are providing quarters to a section of the municipal employees, and if so, why not the Government grant house-rent allowance to those who are not provided with quarters? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI V. GOVINDASWAMI NAIDU :—" Will the Government reconsider the question of granting house-rent allowance to the menials of Municipal Councils considering their poverty and the present famine conditions prevailing in the State? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" This question relates to a particular Municipal Council, while the hon. Member wants a general answer in regard to all Municipal Councils. Let him put a separate question."

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SRI G. RAMA RAO :—" Menial staff అంటే ఏమిటంటే ? ఈ "menial" అనే పదము అసభ్యంగా ఉన్నందున, దీని తీసివేస్తారా ? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" He can suggest names, Sir."

Retrenchment in the Police department.

* 397 *Q*.—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether there are any proposals to effect retrenchment in the Police department, and if so, of what categories?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" 721 officers and 3,367 Constables have been retrenched, besides 81 others viz., clerks and the like. This does not include other minor items.

There are no proposals to effect any further retrenchment at present."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—"ఇంతకుముందు Chief Minister గారు ఒక సమాధానం చెప్పుతూ Police constables కు quarters provide చేసే విషయంగా, constables strength gradual గా increase అవుతున్నట్లు చెప్పారు. ఇప్పుడు temporary constables strength ను retrench చేశాము అని చెప్పారు. ఈ రెండు statements ఏది correct అయిందిన్నీ దయయుంచి తెలిపిస్తారా ? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" We have retrenched at certain points, but the demand for increase of constables still continues on account of the activities of my friend and others." (Laughter.)

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Sir, is it a fact that a large number of Sub-Inspectors promoted from constables' rank are again reverted to the constables' rank, and if so, the reasons therefor? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" This is an old subject, Sir. The policy has now been amended in favour of these long-service acting Sub-Inspectors who belong to the cadre of Head constables, and as much provison as is possible with reference to the requirements of the State and the equipment of the people concerned, is being made."

SRI K. V. VEMA REDDY :—" In view of the prevailing lawlessness in the country as seen from the Police administration report, will the Government consider the feasibility of not effecting any retrenchment in the Police department in the interests of peace in the State? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" While the question supports my previous statement, I do not wish to accept altogether the proposal that we should go on increasing the Police. It is not always the number of constables that counts."